

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,931,822 ("Bemis").

Bemis does not disclose the subject matter of amended independent Claim 17. Specifically, Bemis does not disclose a medical device for draining fluid contained in a liner-type suction canister having a cover, the device comprising a swingarm coupled to the housing, the swingarm adapted to move the liner-type suction canister between a first position and a second position, the swingarm including a drainhead having therein a passageway, the drainhead adapted to engage the cover of the liner-type suction canister to permit fluid to drain from the liner-type suction canister through the drainhead to the housing.

Rather, Bemis discloses a cleaning station 400 for draining and cleaning a suction canister 14. The station 400 includes support posts 456, 460 and a holding bracket 464 on each of the support posts 456, 460. The station 400 further includes a housing 484, 488 vertically moveable relative to the support posts 456, 460, however, the housings 484, 488 do not support the suction canister in a way that allows the canister to be movable between a first position and a second position.

For at least these reasons, Bemis does not disclose the subject matter of independent Claim 17. Accordingly, Claim 17 is allowable.

Bemis does not disclose the subject matter of amended independent Claim 18. Specifically, Bemis does not disclose a method for draining a liner-type suction canister filled with fluid, the method comprising rotating the swingarm and the liner-type suction canister.

As noted above, the housings 484, 488 of Bemis do not support the suction canister in a way that allows the canister to rotate with the swingarm.

For at least these reasons, Bemis does not disclose the subject matter of independent Claim 18. Accordingly, independent Claim 18 is allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-16 and 19-21 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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